

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended). A fully automated gemstone evaluation system for which presence of the actual gemstone is not required, comprising:

an input device adapted to receive predetermined gemstone data supplied by a system user [of the type found on] from a gemstone laboratory grading certificate including cut type, weight, color, clarity, and cut proportions wherein the data for cut proportions include an objective measurable value for at least one of depth percentage, table percentage, girdle thickness, crown height, crown angle, pavilion depth, pavilion angle, culet amount, and type of finish;

a processing device adapted to compute a pricing estimate for use in an evaluation report, based at least upon the cut proportions [gemstone data received]; and

an output device adapted to communicate the evaluation report to the system user.

Claim 2. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation report further includes a summary description of the qualities of the gemstone.

Claim 3. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 1, wherein said pricing estimate includes a separate price estimate for each of a plurality of different types of retail outlets.

Claim 4. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 1, further comprising a remote communication section, allowing for the gemstone data to be received from an input device located remotely, and allowing for the evaluation report to be communicated to an output device located remotely.

Claim 5. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 1, wherein said output device includes a printer for printing the evaluation report.

Claim 6. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 1, wherein said output device includes a display screen for displaying the evaluation report.

Claim 7. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 1, wherein the system user is a consumer.

Claim 8. (currently amended). A fully automated gemstone evaluation system for which the presence of the actual gemstone is not required, comprising:

an input device adapted to receive predetermined gemstone data descriptive of the physical characteristics of the gemstone to be evaluated, supplied by a system user, [of the type found on] from a gemstone laboratory grading certificate including cut type, weight, color, clarity, and cut proportions;

a processing device adapted to compute a fair market pricing estimate for use in an evaluation report, based at least upon the cut proportions [gemstone data received]; and

an output device adapted to communicate the evaluation report to the system user.

Claim 9. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 8, wherein said evaluation report further includes a summary description of the qualities of the gemstone.

Claim 10. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 8, wherein said pricing estimate includes a separate price estimate for each of a plurality of different types of retail outlets.

Claim 11. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 8, further comprising a remote communication section, allowing for the gemstone data to be received from an input device located remotely, and allowing for the evaluation report to be communicated to an output device located remotely.

Claim 12. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 8, wherein said output device includes a printer for printing the evaluation report.

Claim 13. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 8, wherein said output device includes a display screen for displaying the evaluation report.

Claim 14. (original). The automated gemstone evaluation system according to claim 8, wherein the system user is a consumer.

Claim 15. (currently amended). A computerized method of producing a gemstone evaluation report, without the presence of the actual gemstone being required, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving predetermined data describing a gemstone, descriptive of the physical characteristics of the gemstone to be evaluated, supplied by a system user, [of the type found on] from a gemstone laboratory grading certificate including cut type, weight, color, clarity, and cut proportions;

computing a fair market pricing estimate for the gemstone, based at least on the received cut proportions [data describing the gemstone]; generating an evaluation report including the pricing estimate; and communicating the evaluation report to the system user.

Claim 16. (original). The method of claim 15, wherein said step of computing a pricing estimate for the gemstone includes:

computing an adjustment factor, based at least on the cut proportions of the gemstone; and generating a pricing estimate from the baseline price estimate and the computed adjustment factor.

Claim 17. (original). The method of claim 16, wherein said step of determining a baseline price estimate includes:

indexing a data structure, based on the cut style, weight, color and clarity of the gemstone; reading an indexed list price value stored in the data structure; and adjusting the indexed list price value based on a jeweler pricing adjustment for generating said baseline price estimate.

Claim 18. (previously amended). The method of claim 15, wherein said step of communicating the evaluation report to the user includes at least one of the steps of: printing the evaluation report on a printer; and displaying the evaluation report on a display screen.